

Student Study Guide for "Island of the Blue Dolphin"

Make sure you finished your definitions to the vocabulary using the glossary in the book. If you did not, complete at home. Use your book to answer these questions on a sheet of paper to help study for the test on "Island of the Blue Dolphin".

Vocabulary:

gnawed	headland	kelp	lair	ravine	shellfish
sinew	brackish	cove	deafening		

1. Why are the wild dogs important to the story?
2. Why did Karana decide that she would kill the wild dogs?
3. How would you compare the two building sites that Karana considered?
4. Describe Karana.
5. Why did Karana not build in the west?
6. How did the story's setting affect Karana's life?
7. What is the theme of the story?
8. What is the most likely reason the author wrote the selection?
9. Imagine that men in a ship come to an island and find Karana. List a few reasons why she might find it difficult to adjust to life off the islands?
10. When Karana was building her house, she used eight poles to make the roof. A sentence in the story says, "These I bound together with sinew and covered with female kelp, which has broad leaves." Why did she prefer to use the kelp with broad leaves?
11. The author wrote the story from Karana's point of view. Why do you think he did this?

